

What are the pros and cons of living in a 55+ community?

When deciding between senior living options, it is essential to weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks of each choice. While everyone has their preferences in mind when making such a decision, here are highlights that every person exploring active adult communities should consider...

Pros

1. ***Community living:*** Active adult communities offer the perfect opportunity to forge meaningful connections with people from diverse backgrounds, all of whom have weathered life's ups and downs. With a shared focus on enjoying retirement in comfort and ease, these vibrant neighborhoods provide an ideal environment for forging lifelong relationships, or not!
2. ***Quiet environment:*** A 55+ age requirement provides a peaceful atmosphere in active adult communities, creating an ideal environment for adults to enjoy the company of their family and friends without additional noise or disruption.
3. ***Amenities:*** Active adult communities offer a unique opportunity for participants to stay fit and connected with others, thanks to exciting amenities like pools and fitness centers and golf! Plus, many of these communities host social events and clubs focusing on shared interests or causes that you can volunteer with - all perfect ways to keep active and engaged in your golden years! We suggest you take a look at the sample monthly calendar located on this website. Don't feel like driving? Take a look at the sample bus schedule and let our bus driver do the driving for you on planned trips!
4. **Lawn mowing and snow removal – done for you!**

Cons

1. ***Lack of age diversity:*** With a majority of residents in active adult communities over the age of 55, there can be an absence of diversity that may dissuade potential inhabitants from settling in.
2. ***Limited real estate investment:*** Active adult communities can be great investments for those looking to plan ahead, but if you view your active adult community residence as a real estate investment, it is essential to consider that family members who are under 55 will not be permitted to use the property without a senior present. For part-time residents who reside away during the winter months or other extended periods, this should be taken into consideration before making any long-term decisions.

3. ***No care services nor “handyman” services are included as part of your monthly HOA fee. 55 and older ACTIVE ADULT single family home communities do not provide assisted living nor healthcare nor “handyman” services as part of your monthly HOA fee. There are no on-site healthcare facilities at Greenbriar Woodlands in Toms River. Healthcare and “handyman” services must be provided or arranged by relatives/ family members. Greenbriar Woodlands does NOT offer assisted living nor do they provide care for individuals who need assistance with daily activities such as mobility, medication, and household chores. Ultimately, this community would fall under the same category as “aging at home”. Therefore, it is always recommended that proper thought and research are conducted before deciding if this 55 and older community is the right choice for you and your family.***

4. ***Restrictions/ Rules/ Regulations:*** You may not be used to having to ask permission to do improvements on the outside of your home and property...and other instances that you may take for granted....
 1. ***Parking:*** Greenbriar Woodlands does not allow on-street parking between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 p.m. Parking is restricted to your garage and driveway only. If you own more cars than your garage and driveway, you will have to pay extra for parking that is in a lot away from your home in the community. RV / large spaces are limited and there is often a wait list.
 2. ***Age Restrictions:*** Can someone younger than 55 live in a 55 and better community? The simple answer is “yes, but”. 55 and older communities often have special exemptions that allow for flexibility in the age of a homeowner's spouse, partner, or resident. Any special exemption would need to be approved in writing by the Board of Directors. Generally speaking, one owner must be 55 or above. At the same time, children living with the parent would need to be 18 years of age or older. Additionally, there are restrictions for how long/ how many nights an underage child (grandchild, or great grandchild, for example) can visit/ stay.
 3. There are two important documents one should read, be comfortable with and acknowledge they will abide by before purchasing a home at Greenbriar Woodlands. These documents can be found on this website under “Useful Documents”. We urge you to take a look at them:
 1. Merged Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions
 2. Rules and Regulations of ARC (Architectural Review Committee).